*Previous references.*

1901-02
( Prisons & Jails

File No. 20 Gel
Serial Nos. 1-4

*Later references.*

P. 12

# GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

---

*Serial Nos.* 1-4

**Part B. for**

---

SUBJECT.

Introduction of Post Mortem Examination into the Mysore Gaols.

---

8 & I No 1523 dt 30.8.01, From Offg Senior Surgeon &c
Request Sanction of Govt for the Introduction
of Post Mortem Exam^n into the Mysore Gaols as
in British Gaols ——
8 & II No 5436 & 1398 dt 26.9.01 To — Offg Senior Surgeon
Enquires for the opinion of the Officers
about the then System of holding the
Post Mortem Exam^n in Mysore Gaols —



C.T. mlcd

Sl 3 No 2234 of 7.10.01 — From Offg Senior Surgeon
Furnishes his opinion re. the above

Sl 4 No 11264-5 of 7.1.02 — To Offg Senior Surgeon
State that Govt Consider that the Exam in question should be held only in cases of deaths from unnatural causes —

(D Cochrane) D

No. 237. THE 25TH SEPTEMBER 1875.

The Offg. Chief Commr. directs the publication of the subjoined Rules, for conducting Post Mortem Examinations, &c., for the guidance of the Officers concerned.

# Rules for conducting Post Mortem Examinations and for examining wounded persons.

I. The Medical Officer shall, immediately on receiving from any person, for examination, a corpse or any other substance, inquire and note down the name and residence of such person and, if the latter be a Police Officer, his number and rank, and shall, without delay, grant to such person a receipt for the corpse or other substance delivered by him. The receipt so granted shall contain a list of the articles or substances received by the Medical Officer, and the name of the person from whom they were received, and to whom the receipt is given. It shall be the duty of the Medical Officer to examine all bodies sent to him as soon as practicable after arrival.

II. In cases where the body is sent to him, the Medical Officer should note the time of its arrival, the date and hour of the *post mortem* examination, the sex and height and apparent age of the deceased, the state of the body, whether well nourished or otherwise, the existence or absence of any caste or other marks, not of recent origin, such as cicatrices, deformities, and the like; and whether the marks upon it correspond with those in the Police or other report.

III. In cases where he has been taken to the place where the body lies, besides the above, he should note the place and nature of the soil (if out in the open country) where he found the body, also its position and the state of the clothes, if any. He should also note, in cases of death from violence, the position of the body in reference to surrounding objects, such as sharp stones and the like, contact with which, it may be alleged, has produced the injury, also whether any blood-stains are visible on such objects or anywhere near the corpse, and whether any weapons are lying near it. In cases of suspected death from poisoning, he should note whether any appearance, as if of vomited matters, &c., is present in the neighbourhood of the body.

IV. In every case he should describe the condition in which he found the body, noting the degree of coldness, warmth, rigidity and putrefaction, and the amount and nature of the clothing or covering on it.

V. Commencing at the skull and terminating at the feet, he should examine the bones to determine whether any of them are fractured or dislocated, and inspect the vertebral column throughout, also the teeth, hair, orifices of the body and general surface, and also note the state of the pupils, whether contracted or otherwise, and whether any substances are grasped in the hands.

VI. If there be any wound or contusion on the body, he should describe its position, length and breadth. He should note the depth and direction of all wounds, whether there are any cuts on the clothes corresponding to them, and examine the wound carefully for the presence of foreign bodies, preserving such as are found. He should also state whether, in his opinion, the wound was mortal, giving his reasons for such opinion, and he should be specially careful to examine the neck for marks of compression.

VII. He should also state his opinion as to whether the wounds, if any, could have been self inflicted, or whether they might have been the result of accident, giving reasons for his opinion.

VIII. He should carefully examine any gun, sword, blood-stained instrument, stick or stone, by which the wounds may have been inflicted, and mark such instrument so as to be able to recognise it, if asked to do so. He should also compare the weapon with the wound alleged to have been caused by it, and state whether, in his opinion, it was possible for the wound to have been produced by it.

IX. He should commence his dissection of the body by removing the top of the skull in the usual way with a saw, and note anything that may appear unusual.

X. He should then make an incision from the chin down to the pubes, so as to be able to examine the windpipe, heart, lungs, liver, stomach, spleen, kidney and intestines, also the urinary bladder, and note whether any of these organs appear diseased, and whether any wound on the outside of the body communicates with the contents of the chest or abdomen.

XI. In making his examination he should disturb, as little as possible, any organ which may communicate with an external wound, if he had reason to think that the body may be examined by another medical man.

XII. In the cases of females, he should examine the ovaries and uterus, bearing in mind that abortion is sometimes caused by the introduction into the uterus of pointed instruments which may cause death. He should note the presence or absence of pregnancy, the probable period to which pregnancy had advanced, and examine the external generative organs for marks of violence.

XIII. In the case of infants, he should note the condition of the umbilicus and cord, if any of the latter remain. He should also remove the lungs, and try whether they sink or float in water.

XIV. In cases of suspected poisoning, he should not neglect to examine every organ of the body, and should pay special attention to the rules laid down hereunder with reference to the duties of the Chemical Examiner.

XV. He should bear in mind that death may possibly have been the result of starvation, exposure to cold or heat, smothering, drowning, lightning, strangulation, poisoning, or disease, and state whether death was due to any of these causes, giving his reasons.

XVI. He should keep all his original notes, even though he may make a fair copy of them afterwards, and should not lend them to any one to read.

XVII. In all cases, the examination of the body should be thorough, and the notes of the appearances discovered should be as minute as possible.

XVIII. Full notes should also be made in cases of examination of wounded persons.

XIX. [illegible] nation, or examined a wounded person, the Medical Officer should bring with him to Court, the original

him at the time of conducting such examination.

XX. The notes of the examination in all cases, or a fair copy of them in the hand-writing of the Medical Officer, should be at once made in a book kept at the hospital or dispensary for the purpose, and should be signed by him.

XXI. The Medical Officer should submit, in a formal report, the results of the *post mortem* examination held by him, along with the inference or inferences deducible therefrom, to the civil authorities within one week from the date of such examination. Should he desire to be furnished with additional facts in connection with the history of the case, before pronouncing a final opinion, he must embody the expression of such reservation in his report. This rule does not alter the procedure in cases of actual or suspected poisoning, the reservation in such cases being dependent upon the submission of the report of the Chemical Examiner.

XXII. A copy of every report made by the District Medical Officer under the preceding rule shall be forthwith submitted to the Civil Surgeon of the Division, who will thereupon issue such instructions, either with reference to the particular case reported, or for the future guidance of the Medical Officers, as he may think necessary. *"Whenever a District Medical Officer has reason to be dissatisfied with the post mortem examination conducted by a Medical Subordinate, he may himself hold, or depute any other competent officer under his orders to hold another examination."*

# Rules regarding the transmission of suspected substances to the Chemical Examiner and their analysis.

I. In the transmission of suspected matters (in cases of poisoning or suspected poisoning) to the Chemical Examiner for analysis, the following rules are to be observed:—

(*a*) Three objects should be carefully attended to in the despatch of all suspected matters; the proof of identity; the possibility of any interference during transit; and thirdly preservation from decomposition.

(*b*) Articles for analysis should be enclosed in perfectly clean glass bottles or jars, accurately corked, tied and sealed with hard wax, and by the private seal of the Surgeon or Magistrate. Bottles, &c., should be enclosed in a thick layer of cotton, and all placed in tin, soldered, and sealed. When wooden boxes must be used, these should be sealed and taped at every opening below as well as above.

(*c*) All liquid and animal matters liable to decomposition should be put up in, or mixed with the strongest spirit available; this effectually prevents decomposition, and without interfering with the subsequent analysis, obviates many serious accidents.

(*d*) A minute and detailed account of the case, symptoms, appearances on dissection, and treatment, if any, should, in every instance, be forwarded, as these afford a clue, not only to the kind or class of poison made use of, but also not unfrequently to the individual or identical poison itself.

(*e*) In cases where arsenic or any other mineral poison is suspected, and when the patient has survived for twenty four hours or more after its exhibition, the liver should be sent, as well as the stomach and a part of the intestines, also a portion of any suspected matter, which might have been the vehicle of exhibiting the poison, as food, rice, congee-water, &c. When any substance vomited by a patient is forwarded, it should be mentioned whether it is a portion of the first vomiting or not; the matters emitted by the first vomitings are most likely to contain portions of the poison.

II. The rules for the transmission of suspected substances, as above given, will not prevent analysis being made by Medical Officers at outstations, who may have the means of examining suspected matters, and it is desirable, on legal grounds, that local analysis should be made whenever possible.

III. When the use of a vegetable poison is suspected, it is quite competent for the Medical Officer on the spot, to do all that the Chemical Examiner can do. With this object, a portion of the suspected substance should be treated with proof spirit and a little acetic acid for 24 or 48 hours; after applying a gentle heat, the mixture should be thrown upon a filter. The filterate should be evaporated over a water-bath, to the consistence of an extract, and the physiological action of the extract should be tested by administering a portion of the same to a young chicken, puppy or kitten. Dilatation of the pupil following the introduction of a small quantity of the extract into the eye of the last animal, gives ground for suspecting the presence of dhatura or aconite.

*Ganja will communicate a green color to this infusion.

IV. Whenever a partial examination of a suspected substance has been made by the Medical Officer on the spot, and the substance is subsequently forwarded to the Chemical Examiner, the result of the local investigation is to be stated.

V. Police Officers, Magistrates and others should, in every case, forward suspected substances in the first instance to the District Medical Officer, and this Officer, if unable to come to a definite opinion thereon, is responsible for their transmission to the Chemical Examiner with every needful statement elucidatory of the case.

VI. Medical Officers should make known to Police Officers, Magistrates, &c., that the Chemical Examiner has no means of distinguishing the blood of human beings from that of other mammals and that, under ordinary circumstances, medico-legal evidence as to blood-stains can be given as well by District Medical Officers, as by the Chemical Examiner.

Copy of the above is circulated for information and guidance of the Medical Officers and subordinates in Mysore.

SENIOR SURGEON & SANITARY COMMISSIONER'S
OFFICE, MYSORE GOVERNMENT,
BANGALORE 22ND OCTOBER 1888.

T. J. McGANN.
*Senior Surgeon and Sanitary Commissioner,*
*with the Government of Mysore.*

N. B. To be pasted on a Card Board or board and hung up in the Dispensary.

Central Press, Bangalore.—14-11-89.—200.

SECTION Pol J
FILE No. 26 of '02
SER'AL No. ———

As for the punishm prescribing in this respect in the madras jails, please see rules 102, 668 and 713 (664) of the madras jail rules, a copy of which is herewith submitted.

2. The object with which this punishment was hitherto not observed in the mofussil jails, is now fully explained.

Submitted for orders.

ma 7/9/07

9/ I agree to the proposal to modify the punishment of irons in all fatal cases is sanctioned, the Superintendents may be asked to send up a despatch in advance of the return

10-9-07

The necessity for

3

a post Mortem exam^n in every case from the point of view of C^l ad- ministration is not quite patent. There is a ~~prejudice~~ feeling against ~~in~~ such exam^ns in the minds of many persons. The expediency of the innovation is doubtful. The matter is submitted for orders.

John
7/12/1901

To the 3^rd Councillor.

14-7^01 (19). Please enquire whether post-mortem exam^ns, which in cases of accidental deaths are unobjectionable, are objected to by the relatives of persons who die in hospitals.

16/9.

W/10 AM 13/9

4

Subd.

In reply to the Councillor's query, the Inspector General states that there is no rule on the subject and that post mortems are sometimes held in such cases and sometimes not and adds that to confine post mortems to such cases only would be useless for the purpose he has in view.

Submitted to the Secy
Rs
16/10/01

SN
16.10.01.

& the 3rd Councillor

13/11

13/11/01

13/11/01

(38)

16/11

16/11/01

16/11/01

Subd with a copy of the Madras Code.

to 3rd C

SN
18/11/01

19/11/01 (42)

19.11.01

5

6

Secretary of
The Postmaster Genl's Orders, dtd 2
from the Senior Surgeon's Office,
is put up for reference.

There is nothing therein to
~~provide~~ indicate in what
cases a Post mortem exam
should be necessary before
this, however, is laid down
in Ss. 174 & 176 of the Cr. Pro. Code. And, as the
proposed order does not
go beyond this, the second
sentence may be omitted
as suggested by the Secy

23.12.01

Issue accdly

26/12

Min. 930

316

2995
1912 9 1
OFFICE OF THE
DIWAN OF MYSORE
1523
30.8.01
BANGALORE

SECTION P. & J.

FILE No. 20 0/01-02

SERIAL No. 1

From

To

H. V. Nanjundayya Esqr.
M. A., M. L.
Secy: to Govt.
Genl: & Rev: Depts.
Bangalore

Dated

Despatched

Received

General No.

No.

Enclosure No.

Requesting Sanction for the introduction into the Mysore Gaols of the custom of holding post-mortem examination of all fatal cases as in British Gaols.

G. 2. 9 n

Send this to the Judl Branch which deals with Prisons.

4/9/01

147-
59-01

Submitted for orders.

7/9/01.

/

From

Major J.Smyth M.D, I.M.S,

Offg: Senior Surgeon and Sanitary Commissioner

with the Government of Mysore,

Bangalore.

To

H.V.Nanjundayya Esq. M.A, M.L,

Secretary to the Government of Mysore

General and Revenue Departments, Bangalore.

No 1523

Dated 30th August 1901

Sir,

I have the honor to request that Government will be pleased to sanction the introduction of the custom in British Jails regarding the post-mortem examination of all fatal cases, being introduced in the Mysore Jails.

2. The method of giving an opinion as to the cause of death from clinical investigation only, which the custom here, is extremely slipshod. It has more over a bad effect on the Medical officers of the prisoners, as it leaves them under the impression that their diagnoses have been correct whereas in a large number of cases they are very far from correct.

3. A further good effect will be the training those examinations will afford not only the Medical Officers themselves, but the Hospital Assistants assisting in their performance. Our Hospital Assistants know very little as to how a post-mortem examination should be made, and yet they are constantly being placed on positions where such knowledge is of the first importance.

4. Further, a carefully followed out system of post-mortem examination will be of the greatest help in keeping the Medical Officer's knowledge of anatomy fresh.I have the best reason to believe that for the most part our Medical Officers, save those recently joined, sadly need brushing up in Anatomy- without a sound knowledge of which they can never be surgeons- and I believe this rustiness in anatomy is the chief cause of

the

the practical non existence of surgery in our hospitals. The Medical Officers are afraid to venture into a territory whose geography they have long ago forgotten.

5. I may say that in British Jails no difficulty in regard to caste or creed ever stands in the way of making Post-mortems- and there is no reason why such difficulty should arise here, unless the Medical Officer lays himself out for the manufacture of such difficulty. Post-mortem examination, should he die in prison, is a part of the treatment every prisoner must expect, and there is an end of the matter.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

M.D.

Major I.M.S.

Offg:Senior Surgeon and Sanitary Commissioner

Mysore Government.

3

SUBJECT. Rs 99
FILE NO. 20 of 01 02
SERIAL NO. 5

To

The Offg Surgn Supdt &c.

No. 5736
& 398
Date: 26th September 1901 -

His letter No. 1523 dated the 30th August 1901, requesting sanction to the introduction into the Mysore jails of the custom of holding post-mortem examination of all fatal cases as in British jails.

---

Adverting to the above, has the honor to enquire whether post mortem examination is

at present held in cases of 4
accidental, sudden and un-
natural deaths among
prisoners

B. O

for Secy

[Wd Circular]

SN
20/9/01

Signed
9/
24/01

1522

4795
9-X-01 190

5

SECTION: P. H.
FILE No.: 20 Sp 01
SERIAL No. 2

FROM

2234
7.10.01

To H.V. Nanjundayya Esqr.
M. A. M. L.
Secy: to Govt
Genl: & Rev. depts
Bangalore

Dated

Despatched

Received

General No.
No.

Enclosure No.

Furnishing opinion as regards the holding of post mortem examination of all fatal cases among prisoners.

9.10.01

MGCPB—3-3-01—50 forms.

5

From

Major J.Smyth M.D, I.M.S,

Offg: Senior Surgeon & Sanitary Commissioner

with the Government of Mysore, Bangalore.

To

H.V.Nanjundayya Esq. M.A, M.L,

Secretary to the Government of Mysore

General and Revenue Departments, Bangalore.

No 2234

Dated 7th October 1901.

Sir,

With reference to your docket No. 5436/J.396 dated 26th September 1901, enquiring whether Post Mortem examination is at present held in cases of accidental, sudden and unnatural deaths among prisoners, I have the honor to state in reply that there is no rule on the subject; Post Mortems are sometimes held on such cases, sometimes not. But in all suspicious or doubtful cases they are invariably conducted

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

M.D.

Major I.M.S.

Offg: Senior Surgeon and Sanitary Commissioner

Mysore Government.

A.P.

Read:-

SECTION No 1 Rs G
FILE No 20 0/01-12
SERIAL No 4

Correspondence ending with letter No. 2234 dated the 7th October 1901, from the Senior Surgeon and Sanitary Commr. with the Govt. of Mysore, ~~requesting~~ requesting sanction to the introduction into the Mysore jails of the custom of holding post mortem examination of all fatal cases as in British jails.

Why draft rules? Is the rule not the same at present? (1)

Is it necessary to refer to Madras at all? (2)

27/11

Subd.
(1). There are no definite rules at present on the holding of post mortem examinations in cases of suicide &c. Hence the Govt. has been asked to submit draft rules.
S/ 27.11.01
(2) May be omitted, if preferred —
27.11.01

I believe the Medl. Deptt. has rules for P.M. Exns which will apply to this (Please verify & let me see them.) If so, no separate rules will be necessary & the 2nd Sentence may be omitted.
27/11
Put up with papers from Mysore Govt.

Order thereon No: 11264/65 / 909 / 7-12-02

Govt. ~~Consider~~ direct that post mortem examinations ~~should~~ should be held only in cases of suicide or ~~any~~ death

deaths from unnatural causes, in ~~the Madras Army~~ The Inspector General of Prisons is accordingly requested to submit draft rules in the matter for the approval of Govt.

26/12

Secretary

26/11/01

3rd Cis order]

26/11/01

by the Senior Surgeons.

a Mr. of Prisons in Mysore.

SN
26-11-01.

Typed.
6/1/02